

Green Lodging News

September/October 2006

Lighting Upgrades

Lighting upgrades are one of the easiest ways to save on utility bills. They have relatively short payback times and are often fairly simple to implement. Upgrades can also improve lighting quality, making your facility more comfortable for both staff and guests. Before

Green Lodging News is a publication targeted toward Michigan's hospitality facilities. It is a service of the Energy Office, Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth. If you are interested in subscribing to the bimonthly newsletter, please contact dohertyrl@michigan.gov.

Green Tip of the Month

When deciding between energy efficient products look for the Energy Star.

- Energy Star products are of equal or greater quality than standard products, only they use less energy.
- They meet strict efficiency criteria and reliability testing.
- Products that claim increased efficiency are not necessarily tested as rigorously as Energy Star products.

starting with the upgrades you should do a quick walkthrough of the facility to verify that current light levels are appropriate. Often areas are over lighted and excess bulbs can be removed. Other lighting upgrades that should be implemented include:

- Replace incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps. CFL's use 75% less energy, last 5-10 times longer, and can save \$38 over the life of the bulb, when compared to incandescents.
- Replace incandescent exit signs with light emitting diode (LED) exit signs. LED exit signs use 95% less energy and last more than 20 times longer than incandescent exit

signs. Thus, saving hundreds of dollars over the exit signs life in energy and maintenance costs.

- Upgrade fluorescent lamps from T-12's to T-8's and replace magnetic ballasts with electronic ballasts. This is a more complicated and expensive upgrade because T-12 fixtures must be retrofit with different ballasts to work properly with T-8 bulbs but this will lead to much better light quality and significant cost savings over time.
- Installing timers and occupancy sensors.
- Using task lighting in staff offices and desk areas of guestrooms.
- Offering nightlights to guests at check-in to keep guest from leaving bathroom lights on during the night.
- Installing efficient HID lamps in parking areas and outside buildings.
- Upgrade wiring to allow better control, eliminating the all or nothing approach to lighting a large area.

Along with these basic upgrades are many other ideas that may be appropriate depending on your facilities specific situation such as:

It is also important to make sure light fixtures are clean and lights are turned off when not being used. For more information please refer to the [Lighting Information Guide](#) on the Green Lodging website.

Program Launch October 18th

The Green Lodging Michigan Program officially launched on Wednesday, October 18th at the Society of Government Meeting Professionals luncheon in Okemos, MI. Department of Labor and Economic Growth Deputy Director Rita Canady awarded plaques to the first six facilities. The six recipients are:

- Bayshore Resort, Traverse City
- Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville
- Livonia Marriott, Livonia
- Neahawanta Inn, Traverse City
- Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, Roscommon
- The Wren's Nest B&B, West Bloomfield

Congratulations to all the certified facilities and thanks for helping Green Lodging Michigan through its pilot phase.

Facilities interested in joining Green Lodging Michigan can get started by visiting the [Green Lodging website](#) and downloading an application.



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